

Potato Stocks



Crop
Reporting
Board

Statistical Reporting
Service

United States
Department of
Agriculture

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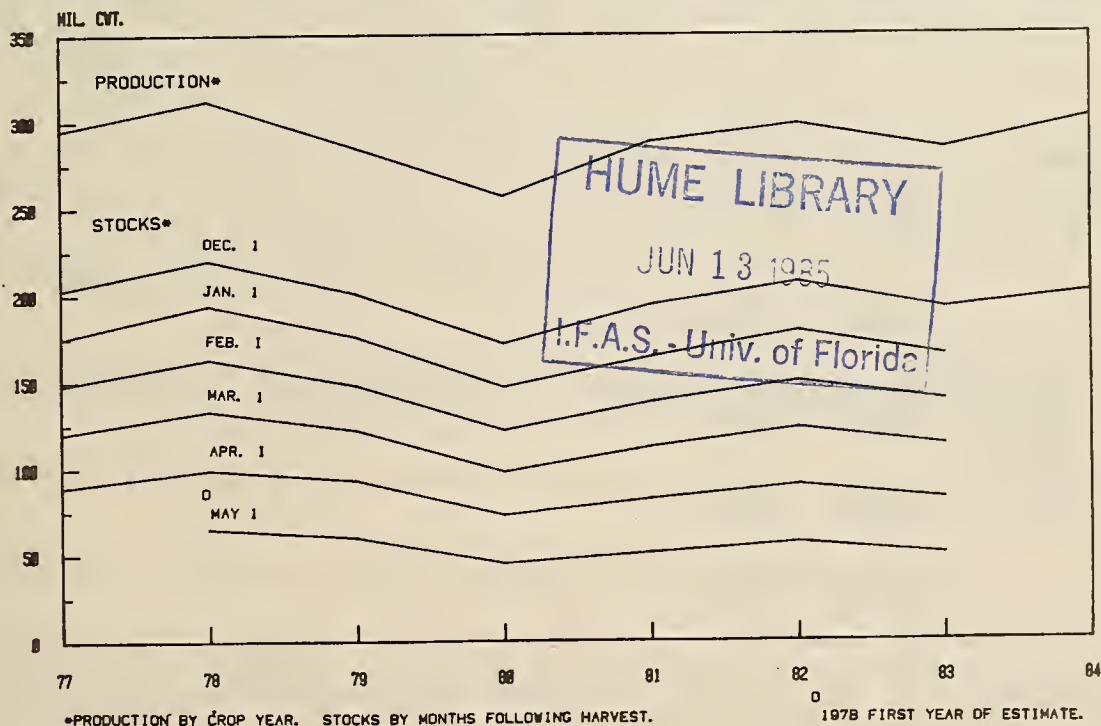
POTATO STOCKS UP 5 PERCENT

December 1, 1984 potato stocks total 201 million cwt for the 15 States making stocks estimates. This is up 5 percent from 1983 but 3 percent below 1982 holdings. Stocks account for 67 percent of fall production this year compared with 68 percent last year. Russets are the major type stored. In the 11 objective yield States, 72 percent are russets; 25 percent whites and 3 percent reds.

The three Eastern States holdings total 26.4 million cwt, the same as last year but 19 percent below two years ago. Maine stocks at 17.2 million cwt are down 6 percent while New York and Pennsylvania show gains of 11 and 19 percent, respectively.

(Comments continued on page 7)

FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS (FOR 15 STATES ESTIMATING POTATO STOCKS)



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* NOTE: Stocks are defined as the quantity remaining in storage for all*
* purposes and uses, including shrinkage and waste and other *
* losses that occur after the date of each report. Sales of fall*
* potatoes for all purposes generally account for about 90 per-*
* cent of the total fall production. Shrinkage, loss and home *
* use account for the remaining 10 percent. *
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TABLE 1. FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS, 15 MAJOR STATES

| CROP YEAR | : PRODUCTION : | DEC 1 | JAN 1 | FEB 1 | MAR 1 | APR 1 | MAY 1 |
|-----------|----------------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------------|
| | : | 1,000 CWT | | | | | |
| 1974 | : | 278,679 | 183,850 | 160,100 | 131,480 | 102,963 | 75,217 |
| 1975 | : | 266,422 | 181,720 | 156,220 | 129,710 | 102,850 | 70,970 |
| 1976 | : | 294,978 | 198,630 | 172,230 | 142,030 | 112,830 | 81,130 |
| 1977 | : | 295,421 | 202,550 | 175,300 | 147,930 | 119,850 | 88,680 |
| 1978 | : | 311,981 | 219,850 | 193,520 | 162,980 | 132,570 | 99,250 64,830 |
| 1979 | : | 284,940 | 200,820 | 176,020 | 147,910 | 121,720 | 92,550 59,535 |
| 1980 | : | 256,518 | 172,030 | 147,010 | 122,065 | 97,680 | 72,660 44,546 |
| 1981 | : | 287,710 | 193,610 | 164,380 | 137,820 | 111,780 | 82,270 50,760 |
| 1982 | : | 298,031 | 206,525 | 178,980 | 150,200 | 122,500 | 90,105 57,305 |
| 1983 | : | 284,344 | 192,150 | 165,330 | 138,900 | 112,730 | 81,740 50,365 |
| 1984 | : | 302,495 | 201,335 | | | | |

TABLE 2. POTATOES PROCESSED 1/, EIGHT STATES, 1983 AND 1984 CROPS

[illegible]

1/ TOTAL QUANTITY RECEIVED AND USED FOR PROCESSING REGARDLESS OF THE STATE IN WHICH THE POTATOES WERE PRODUCED. DOES NOT INCLUDE QUANTITIES USED FOR POTATO CHIPS IN MAINE, MICH, MINN, N DAK, OR WIS. 2/ INCLUDES MAINE GROWN POTATOES ONLY. 3/ MICH, MINN, N DAK, AND WIS.

TABLE 3. FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS ON DECEMBER 1, 1983 AND DECEMBER 1, 1984

| STATE | CROP OF 1983 | | | | CROP OF 1984 | | | |
|----------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| | : PRODUCTION : | : TOTAL : STOCKS : | : DEC 1 : STOCKS : | : AS % OF : PRODUCTION : | : PRODUCTION : | : TOTAL : STOCKS : | : DEC 1 : STOCKS : | : AS % OF : PRODUCTION : |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | 1,000 CWT | PERCENT | | | 1,000 CWT | PERCENT | |
| CALIF | : | 7,790 | 5,400 | 69 | : | 7,280 | 4,725 | 65 |
| COLO | : | 13,950 | 10,500 | 75 | : | 17,225 | 12,550 | 73 |
| IDAHO | : | 85,990 | 61,500 | 72 | : | 86,600 | 61,500 | 71 |
| MAINE | : | 22,560 | 18,300 | 81 | : | 21,360 | 17,200 | 81 |
| MICH | : | 9,840 | 6,600 | 67 | : | 12,540 | 8,000 | 64 |
| MINN | : | 10,313 | 8,500 | 82 | : | 13,775 | 12,200 | 89 |
| MONT | : | 1,800 | 1,700 | 94 | : | 1,924 | 1,860 | 97 |
| NEBR | : | 2,025 | 1,400 | 69 | : | 2,240 | 1,900 | 85 |
| N Y - L I | : | 4,075 | 1,550 | 38 | : | 3,726 | 1,700 | 46 |
| - UPSTATE | : | 5,635 | 3,100 | 55 | : | 6,630 | 3,400 | 51 |
| N DAK | : | 20,480 | 15,000 | 73 | : | 20,615 | 15,300 | 74 |
| OHIO | : | 1,886 | 700 | 37 | : | 2,465 | 850 | 34 |
| OREG | : | 20,710 | 14,000 | 68 | : | 22,680 | 15,200 | 67 |
| PA | : | 4,300 | 3,400 | 79 | : | 5,160 | 4,050 | 78 |
| WASH | : | 54,080 | 29,500 | 55 | : | 56,925 | 29,600 | 52 |
| WIS | : | 18,910 | 11,000 | 58 | : | 21,350 | 11,300 | 53 |
| 15 STATE TOTAL | : | 284,344 | 192,150 | 68 | : | 302,495 | 201,335 | 67 |

RELIABILITY OF DECEMBER 1 PRODUCTION AND STOCKS ESTIMATES

To assist users in evaluating the reliability of production and stocks estimates in this report, the "Root Mean Square Error", a statistical measure based on past performance, is shown below. This is computed by expressing the deviations between the December 1 estimates and the final estimates as a percent of the final estimates and averaging the squared percentage deviations for the 1964-83 twenty year period; the square root of this average becomes statistically the "Root Mean Square Error". Probability statements can be made concerning expected errors in the current estimates relative to the final estimates, assuming that factors affecting this year's estimates are not different from those of recent years. For example, the "Root Mean Square Error" for the December 1 stocks estimate is 2.2 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 201 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.2 percent or approximately 4.4 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 3.7 percent or approximately 7.4 million cwt.

Also shown below is the 10-year (1974-83) record of the differences between the December 1 production and stocks estimates and the final estimates. Using stocks again as an example, changes between the December 1 estimate and the final estimate during the 10 years have averaged 3.86 million cwt, ranging from 0.52 million to 6.25 million cwt. During this 10-year period, the December 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 9 out of 10 years for both production and stocks.

RELIABILITY OF DECEMBER 1 FALL POTATO ESTIMATES

| ESTIMATE | : | ROOT MEAN SQUARE ERROR | | | : | TEN YEAR RECORD OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DEC 1 AND FINAL ESTIMATE | | | | |
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TABLE 4. FALL POTATOES: STOCKS BY TYPE AS PERCENT OF TOTAL STOCKS,
DECEMBER 1, 1984, 11 MAJOR STATES

| STATE | POTATO TYPES | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|----------|----------|-------|
| | REDS | WHITES | RUSSETS | TOTAL |
| | PERCENT | | | |
| COLO | 10 | | 1/90 | 100 |
| IDAHO | | | 1/ 2/100 | 100 |
| MAINE | | 69 | 31 | 100 |
| MICH 4/ | | | | |
| MINN | 12 | 60 | 28 | 100 |
| N Y | | 2/ 3/100 | | 100 |
| N DAK | 22 | 64 | 14 | 100 |
| OREG | | | 1/ 2/100 | 100 |
| PA | | 2/100 | | 100 |
| WASH | | | 1/ 2/100 | 100 |
| WIS | 5 | 42 | 53 | 100 |
| 11 STATE TOTAL: | 3 | 25 | 72 | 100 |

- 1/ INCLUDES SMALL QUANTITIES OF WHITES, LESS THAN 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL.
 2/ INCLUDES SMALL QUANTITIES OF REDS, LESS THAN 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL.
 3/ INCLUDES SMALL AMOUNT OF RUSSETS, LESS THAN 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL.
 4/ NOT PUBLISHED TO AVOID DISCLOSURE OF INDIVIDUAL OPERATIONS.

1984 POTATO OBJECTIVE YIELD SURVEY

The Statistical Reporting Service conducted potato objective yield surveys in the 11 major fall producing States in 1984. Sample plots were located in potato fields that were selected on a random basis using a scientifically designed sampling procedure. Field workers recorded counts and measurements from these fields just prior to and immediately after harvest.

The sample data from the objective yield surveys shown in tables 5 and 6 are presented to provide current information about the crop and are not official estimates.

TABLE 5: POTATOES: HARVEST LOSS BY TYPE OF POTATOES, 1983-84 1/

| STATE AND YEAR | ROUND REDS | ROUND WHITES | RUSSETS | ALL TYPES |
|----------------------|------------|--------------|---------|-----------|
| CWT PER ACRE | | | | |
| COLO 1983 | 33 | 2/ | 32 | 32 |
| 1984 | | | 18 | 18 |
| IDAHO 1983 | 2/ | | 28 | 28 |
| 1984 | | | 26 | 26 |
| MAINE 1983 | 2/ | 16 | 23 | 18 |
| 1984 | | 21 | 25 | 22 |
| MICH 1983 | 2/ | 13 | 27 | 18 |
| 1984 | | 17 | 22 | 19 |
| MINN 1983 | 26 | 30 | 38 | 32 |
| 1984 | 25 | 22 | 22 | 23 |
| N Y 1983 | 2/ | 20 | | 20 |
| 1984 | | 20 | | 20 |
| N DAK 1983 | 18 | 22 | 32 | 22 |
| 1984 | 28 | 29 | 27 | 30 |
| OREG 1983 | | 2/ | 17 | 17 |
| 1984 | 2/ | | 15 | 15 |
| PA 1983 | | 15 | | 15 |
| 1984 | | 20 | | 20 |
| WASH 1983 | | | 13 | 13 |
| 1984 | 2/ | 2/ | 21 | 23 |
| WIS 1983 | 16 | 15 | 22 | 20 |
| 1984 | 14 | 14 | 18 | 16 |

1/ POTATOES LEFT IN THE FIELD AT TIME OF HARVEST. 2/ INSUFFICIENT SAMPLE SIZE.

TABLE 6: POTATOES: AVERAGE NUMBER OF HILLS PER ACRE, BY TYPE, 1983-84 1/

| STATE AND YEAR | ROUND REDS | | ROUND WHITES | | RUSSETS | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | NUMBER OF SAMPLES | AV. NO. OF HILLS PER ACRE | NUMBER OF SAMPLES | AV. NO. OF HILLS PER ACRE | NUMBER OF SAMPLES | AV. NO. OF HILLS PER ACRE |
| COLO 1983 | 8 | 12,606 | 2/ | 2/ | 73 | 12,165 |
| 1984 | 2/ | 2/ | 2/ | 2/ | 75 | 11,954 |
| IDAHO 1983 | 2/ | 2/ | 11 | 13,055 | 307 | 12,731 |
| 1984 | 2/ | 2/ | | | 320 | 12,610 |
| MAINE 1983 | 2/ | 2/ | 124 | 12,566 | 47 | 8,743 |
| 1984 | 2/ | 2/ | 118 | 14,156 | 59 | 9,097 |
| MICH 1983 | 3 | 13,497 | 54 | 12,231 | 29 | 11,480 |
| 1984 | | | 68 | 12,580 | 38 | 11,426 |
| MINN 1983 | 25 | 11,207 | 64 | 10,171 | 44 | 10,480 |
| 1984 | 32 | 10,310 | 49 | 9,623 | 41 | 11,239 |
| N Y 1983 | 2/ | 2/ | 146 | 13,340 | | |
| 1984 | 2/ | 2/ | 119 | 12,893 | 3 | 13,446 |
| N DAK 1983 | 47 | 10,793 | 112 | 10,078 | 17 | 9,868 |
| 1984 | 36 | 10,499 | 92 | 10,024 | 8 | 10,102 |
| OREG 1983 | | | 2/ | 2/ | 142 | 14,443 |
| 1984 | 3 | 11,215 | 3 | 9,305 | 146 | 14,083 |
| PA 1983 | | | 91 | 12,507 | | |
| 1984 | 2/ | 2/ | 89 | 12,391 | | |
| WASH 1983 | 2/ | 2/ | 3 | 13,426 | 171 | 14,428 |
| 1984 | 2/ | 2/ | 4 | 14,720 | 160 | 14,317 |
| WIS 1983 | 16 | 12,387 | 29 | 12,396 | 87 | 10,990 |
| 1984 | 20 | 13,362 | 33 | 12,627 | 92 | 11,438 |

1/ BASED ON COUNTS FROM OBJECTIVE YIELD MEASUREMENTS. 2/ INSUFFICIENT SAMPLE SIZE.

TABLE 7. FALL POTATOES: ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION

| STATE | AREA PLANTED | | | AREA HARVESTED | | |
|------------------------|--------------|---------|---------|----------------|---------|---------|
| | 1982 | 1983 | 1984 | 1982 | 1983 | 1984 |
| | 1,000 ACRES | | | | | |
| CALIF | 18.5 | 19.0 | 19.6 | 18.5 | 19.0 | 18.2 |
| COLO | 45.5 | 47.0 | 53.5 | 45.0 | 46.5 | 53.0 |
| CONN | 1.8 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 1.4 | 1.4 |
| IDAHO-SW (10 COUNTIES) | 25.0 | 25.0 | 28.0 | 25.0 | 25.0 | 28.0 |
| -OTHER CO | 305.0 | 290.0 | 302.0 | 297.0 | 287.0 | 297.0 |
| IND | 3.4 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.3 | 3.0 | 3.0 |
| MAINE | 107.0 | 95.0 | 94.0 | 106.0 | 94.0 | 89.0 |
| MASS | 3.8 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.8 | 3.4 | 2.9 |
| MICH | 41.0 | 43.0 | 45.0 | 39.0 | 41.0 | 44.0 |
| MINN | 71.0 | 70.5 | 77.1 | 64.0 | 62.5 | 72.5 |
| MONT | 7.5 | 7.3 | 7.5 | 7.4 | 7.2 | 7.4 |
| NEBR | 8.9 | 7.6 | 8.4 | 8.8 | 7.5 | 8.0 |
| NEV | 13.0 | 12.0 | 10.0 | 13.0 | 12.0 | 10.0 |
| N Y - LONG ISLAND | 19.3 | 16.5 | 14.0 | 19.0 | 16.3 | 13.8 |
| - UPSTATE | 26.0 | 25.5 | 26.0 | 25.0 | 24.5 | 25.5 |
| N DAK | 122.0 | 132.0 | 136.0 | 115.0 | 128.0 | 133.0 |
| OHIO | 9.5 | 9.5 | 9.5 | 9.0 | 9.2 | 9.3 |
| OREG - MALHEUR CO | 10.7 | 9.2 | 11.0 | 10.5 | 9.0 | 10.5 |
| - OTHER CO | 42.8 | 40.0 | 46.5 | 42.0 | 39.5 | 45.0 |
| PA | 22.0 | 22.0 | 22.0 | 21.0 | 21.5 | 21.5 |
| R I | 3.0 | 2.8 | 2.7 | 3.0 | 2.8 | 2.6 |
| S DAK | 11.0 | 15.5 | 15.0 | 10.0 | 15.4 | 13.0 |
| UTAH | 6.4 | 6.0 | 6.5 | 6.4 | 5.9 | 6.4 |
| VT | .4 | .4 | .3 | .4 | .4 | .3 |
| WASH | 110.0 | 104.0 | 116.0 | 110.0 | 104.0 | 115.0 |
| WIS | 66.0 | 63.0 | 62.0 | 64.5 | 62.0 | 61.0 |
| WYO | 5.5 | 3.6 | 3.3 | 5.4 | 3.5 | 2.0 |
| TOTAL | 1,106.0 | 1,074.4 | 1,124.0 | 1,073.8 | 1,051.5 | 1,093.3 |
| | YIELD | | | PRODUCTION | | |
| | 1982 | 1983 | 1984 | 1982 | 1983 | 1984 |
| | CWT | | | 1,000 CWT | | |
| CALIF | 410 | 410 | 400 | 7,585 | 7,790 | 7,280 |
| COLO | 285 | 300 | 325 | 12,825 | 13,950 | 17,225 |
| CONN | 205 | 190 | 225 | 369 | 266 | 315 |
| IDAHO-SW (10 COUNTIES) | 345 | 340 | 335 | 8,625 | 8,500 | 9,380 |
| -OTHER CO | 280 | 270 | 260 | 83,160 | 77,490 | 77,220 |
| IND | 280 | 200 | 250 | 924 | 600 | 750 |
| MAINE | 255 | 240 | 240 | 27,030 | 22,560 | 21,360 |
| MASS | 205 | 190 | 200 | 779 | 646 | 580 |
| MICH | 270 | 240 | 285 | 10,530 | 9,840 | 12,540 |
| MINN | 180 | 165 | 190 | 11,520 | 10,313 | 13,775 |
| MONT | 260 | 250 | 260 | 1,924 | 1,800 | 1,924 |
| NEBR | 265 | 270 | 280 | 2,332 | 2,025 | 2,240 |
| NEV | 315 | 310 | 330 | 4,095 | 3,720 | 3,300 |
| N Y - LONG ISLAND | 270 | 250 | 270 | 5,130 | 4,075 | 3,726 |
| - UPSTATE | 260 | 230 | 260 | 6,500 | 5,635 | 6,630 |
| N DAK | 150 | 160 | 155 | 17,250 | 20,480 | 20,615 |
| OHIO | 245 | 205 | 265 | 2,205 | 1,886 | 2,465 |
| OREG - MALHEUR CO | 370 | 370 | 360 | 3,885 | 3,330 | 3,780 |
| - OTHER CO | 410 | 440 | 420 | 17,220 | 17,380 | 18,900 |
| PA | 235 | 200 | 240 | 4,935 | 4,300 | 5,160 |
| R I | 240 | 225 | 230 | 720 | 630 | 598 |
| S DAK | 155 | 150 | 140 | 1,550 | 2,310 | 1,820 |
| UTAH | 225 | 230 | 270 | 1,440 | 1,357 | 1,728 |
| VT | 230 | 220 | 210 | 92 | 88 | 63 |
| WASH | 480 | 520 | 495 | 52,800 | 54,080 | 56,925 |
| WIS | 350 | 305 | 350 | 22,575 | 18,910 | 21,350 |
| WYO | 210 | 205 | 260 | 1,134 | 718 | 520 |
| U S | 288 | 280 | 286 | 309,134 | 294,679 | 312,169 |

Stocks in the six Central States totaling 49.6 million cwt are up 15 percent from last year and are 13 percent above December 1982. Holdings in Minnesota are up 44 percent; while Michigan stocks are up 21 percent from last year. North Dakota and Wisconsin are holding only 2 and 3 percent more stocks, respectively than last year.

The six Western States had 125 million cwt of potatoes in storage on December 1, 1984, up 2 percent from a year earlier but 4 percent short of 1982 holdings. Present Idaho stocks at 61.5 million cwt are equal to last year; Washington stocks at 29.6 million are up fractionally, and Oregon storage of 15.2 million cwt is up 9 percent. Colorado's San Luis Valley storage was up 20 percent; but California registered 12 percent less when compared with last year.

Disappearance in the 15 stock States totaled 101 million cwt of potatoes so far this season, up 10 percent from last year and 11 percent above two years ago. This included 16.1 million cwt of potatoes lost to dumping, grading, shrinkage, etc, compared with 14.0 million cwt last year.

Processing to December 1, 1984 totaled a record 47.1 million cwt in the eight major processing States, up 26 percent from last year.

FALL PRODUCTION UP 6 PERCENT

Production of fall potatoes in the U.S. is estimated at 312 million cwt (14.2 million metric tons), a gain of 6 percent from last year and 1 percent above two years ago. Harvested area totaled 1.09 million acres (442 thousand hectares), up 4 percent from last year and 2 percent above 1982. The average yield was 286 cwt per acre, up 6 cwt from last year, but 2 cwt short of the 1982 record high.

In the seven Eastern States, production is set at 38.4 million cwt, 1 percent above last year, but 16 percent below 1982. Acreage harvested at 157 thousand was 4 percent below last year continuing a downward slide for the region. Average yield came in at 245 cwt per acre, a gain of 12 cwt over last year. Production in Maine at 21.4 million cwt was down 5 percent from last year. New York output of 10.4 million cwt gained 7 percent; while Pennsylvania production of 5.2 million cwt was up 20 percent.

The eight Central States produced 75.6 million cwt of potatoes this year, a jump of 14 percent from last year and 10 percent above 1982. Acreage for harvest at 344 thousand swelled 5 percent, while average yields at 220 cwt per acre were up 9 percent. Michigan growers produced 12.5 million cwt, up 27 percent from last year. Wisconsin output of 21.4 million cwt was up 13 percent. Minnesota and North Dakota production gained 34 and 1 percent respectively, although Red River Valley harvest was beset with dry, cloddy soils and heavy potato bruising.

In the nine Western States, production totaled 198 million cwt, up 4 percent from last year and 2 percent above 1982. Harvested acreage at 593 thousand acres was up 6 percent; while the average yield of 334 cwt per acre was 2 percent below last year. Yields were below last year in each of the Pacific Northwest States (Idaho, Oregon, and Washington) but not enough to offset their acreage increases. Idaho production of 86.6 million cwt was up nearly 1 percent from last year; Washington harvest of 56.9 million cwt gained 5 percent; and Oregon output hit 22.7 million cwt, up 10 percent. These three States ranked 1, 2, and 3 respectively, this year in National production of fall potatoes.

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